

Message Text

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44

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

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ABF-01 AGR-20 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 HEW-08

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TAGS: OSCI, EAID, EG

SUBJ: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JOINT WORKING GROUP

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH EGYPTIAN DELEGATION

1. IT WILL BE REMEMBERED IN FEBRUARY THAT MINISTER FAHMY REQUESTED THAT THE EMBASSY CLEAR ALL OF THE SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY FUND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. AS A RESULT WE HAVE SUBMITTED THE FY-75 PACKAGE TO THE MINISTRY FOR APPROVAL. AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, THIS PROCEDURE HAD CREATED A BOTTLENECK AS WE AWAIT THE APPROVAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (WHICH IS THOROUGHLY UNFAMILIAR WITH THE PROPOSALS). IN ORDER TO AVOID FUTURE PROBLEMS, WE SUGGEST THAT AMERICAN SIDE OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP(JWG) PRESENT A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE JWG ESTABLISH A STANDING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THE VARIOUS WASHINGTON AGENCIES AUTHORIZED TO SPEND PL 480 EXCESS CURRENCIES, AND OF THE GOE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE EGYPTIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH, AND THE RESEARCH DIRECTORS OF THE VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES. THIS COMMITTEE WOULD PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE EXPEDITIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEW PROPOSALS. BOTH THE AMERICAN AND EGYPTIAN MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE SFCP PROJECTS PROPOSED BY SCIENTISTS

FROM EITHER SIDE. WE BELIEVE THAT ESTABLISHING THIS SPECAIL
MECHANISM WILL ALSO HELP TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE
PROJECTS TO OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP AND WILL GET THE GOE TO FOCUS
ON THE BROAD RANGE OF VERY USEFUL PROGRAMS WHICH WE ARE FUNDING.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS COMMITTEE COULD BE
INCLUDED IN ANY FINAL COMMUNIQUE. SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD POINT
OUT THE FACT THAT WE ARE PROVIDING FIVE MILLION DOLLARS FOR
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN EGYPT DURING FY-975, THAT THIS REPRESENTS
A DOUBLING OF THE PROGRAM OVER PREVIOUS YEARS, THAT THESE
PROJECTS ARE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH COUNTRIES AND THAT THEY ARE ALSO
CONTINUING
PROGRAM OF PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONTACT.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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